

# DUBLIN/DARLINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

February 16, 2011

## Wilson Community Center

**Members Present:** Jane Howe, Secretary  
Jim Murphy  
Joni Nugent  
Stephen Smith  
Donald Thomas  
Alan Thompson  
Shirley Thompson

**Guests:** Billy Boniface  
Patricia Gonzalez  
Rick Grambo  
DFC Jodi Nickoles  
John Sauers  
Chad Shrodes  
Lt. Joe Van Seeters  
Capt. Keith Warner

Jane Howe called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Rich Norling had to stay in Annapolis for the General Assembly session.

**Review of Minutes:** Donald Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011. Alan Thompson seconded. Passed. Jane Howe asked about how best to report crime statistics from the Sheriff's Office. The consensus was for inclusion of a chart in the minutes along with an attached copy of the original Email file, when available. There was also interest in scheduling a meeting at the newly refurbished Visitor's Center at the Conowingo Dam. Jane will look into it.

### Government Updates

**Sheriff's Representative:** DFC Jodi Nickoles reported on crime in Sector 100 for the month of January. She said that the statistics have finally caught up to the reporting process and crime is up. However, Sector 100 is still very low at 7% of the total for Harford County.

Total calls for Harford County – 12,373 in 1/2011 up from 10,539 in 1/2010

			Dayshift 8am-4pm	Evening 4pm-12am	Midnight 12am-8am
Sector 100	January 2011	855	24%	23%	53%
	January 2010	762			

There were 5 assaults, 3 burglaries, 10 thefts and 1 auto theft.

DFC Nickoles introduced Capt. Keith Warner and Lt. Joe Van Seeters of the Northern Precinct. Capt. Warner is the Precinct Commander. He said they will try to attend the DDCC meeting every month. He commented that "things are pretty smooth" right now. Even gang activity is down. But he cautioned everyone to LOCK THEIR CARS! Suction cups and leads are a clue to GPS and E-Z Pass devices. Don't leave them, or garage door openers, in the car. Also, don't program your home address. Please call the Sheriff's Office if you see anything out of the ordinary. Copper has spiked again and even though scrap yards are cooperating with the police, copper theft is on the rise.

A discussion followed regarding local crime. DFC Nickoles asked everyone to know what is in their medicine cabinet and to dispose of unused medications properly. (Don't flush it.) Citizens can go to [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com) for updated local information. Anyone can search the MD Judiciary Search website for active cases. The Sheriff's Office does not reflect total crime in the area because sometimes the problem is never reported, handled internally, or handled by private security. If the State Police respond to a call, it will not show up in the Sheriff's statistics. However, the Sheriff's Office shares information with the State Police and also with adjacent Pennsylvania jurisdictions.

The Citizen's Police Academy, a 15 week course, is about to begin. Chad Shrodes commented that he was a part of the class a few years ago and highly recommends it to all. Also, the Youth Academy has begun to accept applications for this summer. Jane Howe said she will make sure the information gets into the new 21034 E-News.

**County Executive's Representative:** Patty Gonzalez reported that she will alternate with Jane Walker and they will attend DDCC meetings on a quarterly schedule as noted in the bylaws. The kick off meeting for the Master Plan is tomorrow night at HCC at 6:30pm in the Chesapeake Building. She will see to it that a representative from P&Z attends the March meeting with an update about the process

**Billy Boniface, County Council President,** reported that the meeting on Critical Areas was not advertised with enough notice in the Aegis, so the meeting dates had to be moved. He has started his discussion with the County Executive on the budget and they will wrap up next week. Whatever comes out of the General Assembly will come to Harford County by the middle of April, but the Harford County deadline is April 1. He commented that revenues are low and there will not be a lot of capital projects this year. Regarding the Redistricting Commission, the County Council draws the lines in the end.

**Chad Shrodes, District D Councilman,** sent his Transportation Plan amendments by email. He said they may be of interest when writing the Darlington/Dublin part of the Master Land Use Plan. There was a short discussion about how to find out about funding for local projects. Billy and Chad noted that all that information is posted online at the Harford County website.

**Guest Presentation:** Rick Grambo, newly elected to the Board of Education from District D, greeted everyone and said that his term was to start on July 1. However, due to vacancies, he and Bob Frisch were appointed to an early start. He said the Board dynamics are changing and there is more diversity. He is glad to have the opportunity to have input to the Elementary School redistricting plan, even though it is a misnomer. There is only one district and it is all of Harford County. There has been useful input from the community, the ones who know their neighborhoods best. Every bit of information is important. People need to speak up. He is concentrating on the northern end of the county, where he lives. He knows he can't "fix it" for everyone and some students may wind up passing a school to get to their school. But there is enough capacity in county schools. We just need to get the kids there. Nothing is finalized yet. Billy commented that communication with the Board of Education may be getting better because he sees Rick Grambo meeting with Chad Shrodes frequently. In the discussion that followed, these topics were examined. There will be testimony in Annapolis on 2/22 regarding the Wetlands Project at NHHS. Policy regarding legacy money needs reworking and standardization. Local Principals have jurisdiction over etiquette in their own schools.

**Old Business: Future Guests** – Planning & Zoning personnel will be asked to come to the March meeting to address the Master Land Use Plan.

**New Business: Conowingo Village** – DNR is planning the demolition of the last house and the water tower at what remains of Conowingo Village. The one person who expressed interest in the RFP for the house is no longer in the area. But before that happens, does the DVFC want to use the house as a training site? Also, does the DVFC want the water tower to stay functional? Jane Howe asked Donald Thomas to contact Barry Glassman and Rich Norling directly ASAP.

**Good of the Council:**

~ Jim Murphy has a number of comments about unreported problems at the High's Store, Scarboro Landfill and single stream recycling.

~ Joni Nugent asked for help from Patty Gonzalez for the mother of one of the Darlington Post Office employees who lives in the Riverside area. Her mother was having a senior citizen transportation problem to the Senior Center of her choice. Patty will look into it.

~ Capt. Warner said the Sheriff's Office wants to get an early start on the Apple Festival and also the Dublin Country Fair. Donald Thomas will be the contact for the Fair. Jane Howe will send contact information about the Apple Festival. A short discussion ensued regarding conflicting local events.

~ Jane Howe had extra copies of the newly created 21034 Community E-News and said the March issue was due out on March 1 with a March 15 deadline for the April issue.

~ Flyers for the movie "Waiting for Superman" were available for posting.

**Adjournment:** Donald Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Joni Nugent. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

**Next Meeting:** March 16, 2011, 7PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howe